

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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S E C R E T USNATO 5083

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NEW U.S. DATA FOR PUBLIC USE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: A) STATE 209532

B) STATE 207385

C) USNATO 5064

D) USNATO 5063

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT'S SUDDEN INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORIZING PUBLIC RELEASE OF DATA (REF A) COULD HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR ALLIEED POLITICAL COHESION. I REQUEST THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN TO RELEASE DATA--OR TO RAISE THIS QUESTION IN ADHOC GROUP--UNTIL THESE NEW U.S. FIGURES ARE AGREED IN NATO. END SUMMARY.

1. UNEXPECTED INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED STATE 209532 ARE POTENTIALLY HARMFUL:
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A. ALLIANCE IS NOW DIGESTING MOST RECENT REVISION OF U.S. DATA, WHICH MISSION CIRCULATED ON OCTOBER 19 (STATE 207385) SPC AND MBFR WORKING GROUP ARE ALREADY AT WORK AND THERE IS REASON TO THINK ALLIES WILL SOON REACH EARLY AGREEMENT

ON LATEST U.S. FIGURES.

B. IMS INTELLIGENCE DIVISION HAS REVIEWED NEW U.S. FIGURES (OCTOBER 19 VERSION) AND AS REPORTED REF D, HAS IDENTIFIED WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE SIGNIFICANT DISCREPANCIES WITH RESPECT TO NON-SOVIET WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE LEVELS, AS COMPARED WITH ALLIANCE AGREED DATA RESULTING FROM RECENT NATO TO&E CONFERENCE (REFTEL D). WE HAVE SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF ALLEGED DISCREPANCIES AND ARE REQUESTING SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON (REF C). (WE ARE ALSO LOOKING INTO THIS QUESTION OF TO&E DATA MORE DEEPLY HERE AND BELIEVE WE HAVE FOUND SOURCE OF MAJOR DISCREPANCY. SEE SEP TEL.)

C. HOWEVER LATEST U.S. REVISIONS (THE THIRD IN MBFR CONTEST THIS YEAR) CANNOT YET BE CONSIDERED NATO AGREED DATA. AS FAR AS ALLIANCE IS CONCERNED, FIGURES RESULTING FROM RECENT TO&E CONFERENCE REPRESENT MOST RECENT AUTHORITATIVE NATO FIGURES ON WP FORCE LEVELS BECAUSE U.S. AND OTHER ALLIED "EXPERTS" AGREED TO THEM.

2. DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION TO MBFR DEL VIENNA TO "SEEK AGREEMENT" (PARA. 4, STATE 209532) ON "UNIFORM USE BY DELEGATIONS" OF WHAT ARE IN EFFECT OCTOBER 19 REVISION OF U.S. NUMBERS AMOUNTS TO OPEN INVITATION TO THOSE WHO RELISH DEBATE ON NAC-AHG RELATIONSHIP. IF THE PAST BE ANY GUIDE TO THE FUTURE, ONE CAN PREDICT THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THAT WELL-DEBATED THEME WILL UNNECESSARILY:

1)IMPEDE PROGRESS, 2) JANGLE POLITICAL NERVES IN CERTAIN ALLIED CAPITALS, AND 3) DISTTURB THE FLANK COUNTRIES AGAIN.

3. FINALLY, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT PRIOR AGREEMENT(AND ACCEPTANCE) BY ALL ALLIED GOVERNMENTS OF AN AGREED SET OF THESE EVER-SHIFTING FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT AND NATO HOLDINGS IS IMPORTANT TO MBFR; BUT SO IS MAINTENANCE OF
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SOLID POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR NATO NEGOTIATING POSITION DEVELOPED SINCE U.S. MADE ITS JULY 27 INPUT. IN A LARGER SENSE THE ALLIANCE, AND ESPECIALLY ALLIED MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE REPRESENTATIVES, NEED TO DIGEST THESE REVISIONS OF U.S. ESTIMATES OF THE WARSAW PACT ORDER OF BATTLE AND ATTAIN A MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFICACY OF AMERICAN METHODS AND THE SOUNDNESS OF AMERICAN ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES. THIS IS MY CONCERN IF THE U. S. IS TO ACHIEVE ITS POLICY OBJECTIVES WITH RESPECT TO MBFR, BURDEN-SHARING, IMPROVEMENTS IN CONVENTIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITIES, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE DEFENSE BUDGETS.

4. IN SUM, I RECOMMEND THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 209532 NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

RUMSFELD

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